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FAX COVER SHEET

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Date: October 25, 2004

To: Scott Koch - Information and Privacy Coordinator

Organization: Central Intelligence Agency

From: The National Security Archive

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Message: FOIA Request Attached
National Security Archive Number 20041191CIA142

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October 26, 2004

Scott A. Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Re: Request under the FOIA, in reply please refer to Archive # 20041191CIA142

Dear Mr. Koch,

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I hereby request a copy of the following:

The June 2004 CIA Inspector General's Report discussing the events of September 11, 2001

[This document is referenced in the attached article, "The 9/11 Secret in the CIA's Back Pocket," by Robert Scheer posted on Salon.com]

If you regard this document as potentially exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose it. As the FOIA requires, please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of the document. To permit me to reach an intelligent and informed decision whether or not to file an administrative appeal of any denied material, please describe any withheld portions and explain the basis for your exemption claims.

As you know, the National Security Archive qualifies for waiver of search and review fees as a representative of the news media. This request is made as part of a scholarly and news research project and not for commercial use. For details on the Archive's research and publication activities, please see our Web site at the address above. Please notify me before incurring photocopying costs over \$100.

If you have any questions regarding the identity of these records, their location, the scope of the request or any other matters, please call me at [redacted] or e-mail [redacted]. I look forward to your response, thank you.

Sincerely, [redacted]

[redacted]

The 9/11 Secret in the CIA's Back Pocket
ROBERT SCHEER

The agency is withholding a damning report that points at senior officials. Robert Scheer

October 19, 2004

It is shocking: The Bush administration is suppressing a CIA report on 9/11 until after the election, and this one names names. Although the report by the inspector general's office of the CIA was completed in June, it has not been made available to the congressional intelligence committees that mandated the study almost two years ago.

"It is infuriating that a report which shows that high-level people were not doing their jobs in a satisfactory manner before 9/11 is being suppressed," an intelligence official who has read the report told me, adding that "the report is potentially very embarrassing for the administration, because it makes it look like they weren't interested in terrorism before 9/11, or in holding people in the government responsible afterward."

When I asked about the report, Rep. Jane Harman (D-Venice), ranking Democratic member of the House Intelligence Committee, said she and committee Chairman Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.) sent a letter 14 days ago asking for it to be delivered. "We believe that the CIA has been told not to distribute the report," she said. "We are very concerned."

According to the intelligence official, who spoke to me on condition of anonymity, release of the report, which represents an exhaustive 17-month investigation by an 11-member team within the agency, has been "stalled." First by acting CIA Director John McLaughlin and now by Porter J. Goss, the former Republican House member (and chairman of the Intelligence Committee) who recently was appointed CIA chief by President Bush.

The official stressed that the report was more blunt and more specific than the earlier bipartisan reports produced by the Bush-appointed Sept. 11 commission and Congress.

"What all the other reports on 9/11 did not do is point the finger at individuals, and give the how and what of their responsibility. This report does that," said the intelligence official. "The report found very senior-level officials responsible."

By law, the only legitimate reason the CIA director has for holding back such a report is national security. Yet neither Goss nor McLaughlin has invoked national security as an explanation for not delivering the report to Congress.

"It surely does not involve issues of national security," said the intelligence official.

"The agency directorate is basically sitting on the report until after the election," the official continued. "No previous director of CIA has ever tried to stop the inspector general from releasing a report to the Congress, in this case a report requested by Congress." None of this should surprise us given the Bush administration's great determination since 9/11 to resist any serious investigation into how the security

of this nation was so easily breached. In Bush's much ballyhooed war on terror, ignorance has been bliss. The president fought against the creation of the Sept. 11 commission, for example, agreeing only after enormous political pressure was applied by a grass-roots movement led by the families of those slain. And then Bush refused to testify to the commission under oath, or on the record. Instead he deigned only to chat with the commission members, with Vice President Dick Cheney present, in a White House meeting in which commission members were not allowed to take notes. All in all, strange behavior for a man who seeks reelection to the top office in the land based on his handling of the so-called war on terror. In September, the New York Times reported that several family members met with Goss privately to demand the release of the CIA inspector general's report. "Three thousand people were killed on 9/11, and no one has been held accountable," 9/11 widow Kristen Breitweiser told the paper.

The failure to furnish the report to Congress, said Harman, "fuels the perception that no one is being held accountable. It is unacceptable that we don't have [the report]; it not only disrespects Congress but it disrespects the American people."

The stonewalling by the Bush administration and the failure of Congress to gain release of the report have, said the intelligence source, "led the management of the CIA to believe it can engage in a cover-up with impunity. Unless the public demands an accounting, the administration and CIA's leadership will have won and the nation will have lost."